

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 22 of 1879.]

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 31st May 1879.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Purva-Pratidhwani"	Chittagong	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
4	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	.....	27th May 1879.
5	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	20th ditto.
6	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	.....
7	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	.....	27th ditto.
8	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	25th ditto.
9	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	23rd ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	24th ditto.
11	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beaulah, Rājshāhye...	200	21st ditto.
12	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	23rd ditto.
13	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	.....	26th ditto.
14	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	235	23rd ditto.
15	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	22nd ditto.
16	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	516	25th ditto.
17	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	.....	26th ditto.
18	"Samālochak"	Ditto	.....
19	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	.....
20	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh	.....	23rd ditto.
21	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	5,500	24th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
22	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Ditto	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
23	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	550	23rd, 26th, and 28th May 1879.
24	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	.....	22nd to 29th May 1879.
25	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	
26	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
27	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
28	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	24th May 1879.
ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.				
29	"Byāpārī; " or, The Trader	Ditto	.....	26th to 30th May 1879.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
30	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	28th May 1879.
31	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	.....
32	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	.....	26th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
33	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	23rd ditto.

POLITICAL.

SADHARANI,
May 25th, 1879.

The Cabul war.

WE give below the substance of an article in the *Sādhārani*, of the 25th May, headed, the "Water of peace thrown upon the fire." It would seem that the Afghan war is now about to end. The terms to which Yakub Khan is said to have agreed are such as to lead to the fulfilment of the object for which Government declared this war. Now, what this object is, was never given out by the authorities. The fighting in Afghanistan has to some extent quenched the thirst for military glory which seized the British mind ever since the Russo-Turkish war. Besides, the object of Lord Beaconsfield in diverting public opinion in England from domestic affairs, and directing it towards foreign wars and conquests has been, in a large measure, attained; and a persistence in this course being no longer possible owing to the universal desire for peace, His Lordship is anxious to terminate hostilities as soon as practicable. So much for the object of Lord Beaconsfield; until the text of the treaty is published, it is not so easy to speak of that of the Government of India which is to secure a strong North-western frontier, and by maintaining its ascendancy in Afghanistan, to defeat all possible Russian intrigues against India. This much, however, can be said, that the old treaty with Cabul and the policy which had so long regulated the attitude of the British Government towards that kingdom, although they were all that could be desired, will now be fully set aside, and a new policy inaugurated under which the Amir will be required to surrender a portion of his independence. Considering the state of public opinion in England, however, it does not seem that Government will be allowed to make any considerable annexations of territory; and should that prove to be the case, Yakub Khan would not perhaps be a great loser by the new treaty.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 26th, 1879.

Propagation of faith.

2. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 26th May, remarks in its opening editorial that propagandism is always productive of evil. The wars and persecutions which arose out of the differences between the Roman Catholics and Protestants in England, and the cruelties perpetrated by the Mahomedans in their endeavours to preach their faith, clearly shew this to be case. And although the Christian Missionaries work upon entirely different principles, and confer the blessings of civilization upon the people to whom they preach the Gospel, still even their advent has not always been free from troubles; nay, in many cases, it has been directly the cause of sanguinary wars which have not unoften resulted in the destruction of savage races. The Abyssinian war was due to this cause, to which also, in a great measure, may be attributed the present war in Zululand. Similar things have occurred in China and Burmah. The preaching of Christian Missionaries would not have in many cases occasioned so much difficulty, if they had not been befriended by powerful societies in England. As it is, any insult or rude treatment to which they are subjected at the hands of any savage race which does not like their preaching, powerfully moves the societies at home, whose agents they are, and pressure is put upon Government to avenge it. Another circumstance worthy of note in this connection is that European civilization, being of an aggressive character, is always anxious to find out new fields for conquest; and thus when the work of preaching and the work of civilization go hand in hand, there is no escape for an idolatrous and savage race. If it is weak, it disappears in no time; if strong, the result is war, which, in the end, exterminates the savage race.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

The treaty with Yakub Khan.

3. The same paper gives the same explanation as the *Sādhārani*, of the motives of Lord Beaconsfield for ending the Cabul war. As to the motives of Yakub

Khan, they are plain enough. An intelligent man, as he is, he easily saw the difficulties of his position and felt the impossibility of gaining success in a contest with the British Government. His father's example also has been of much use to him in shewing the absurdity of looking for aid to Russia. The Press Commissioner informs the public that the terms agreed to by Yakub Khan are such as have led to the attainment of the object for which the war was declared. But supposing that everything which Government wanted has been obtained, does all ground for a fear of Russia disappear? The Editor thinks that until the Afghans begin to really regard the English as true friends, and hold their interests as identical with their own, fear of Russia will not be dissipated. Any annexation of territory will but lead to a desire of further aggrandizement on the part of the conquerors. It is a matter of no small glory to Lord Lytton that within three years of his administration, he has been able to subvert the policy which the Government of India had pursued for forty years past, and to produce estrangement and suspicion where there was love and confidence before.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

4. We extract the following observations from the opening editorial in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 20th May, entitled "Wherein is Lord Lytton then to blame?" The motive which led Lord Lytton to sacrifice India at the altar of Manchester in utter disregard of the voice of the people, and the protests of his Council, has at length been disclosed. The pressure of the Home Government proved too much for his independence. In the matter of the cotton duties, the Ministry had long stood pledged to Manchester, and they could not well afford to let their pledge remain unfulfilled. The position of Lord Beaconsfield has indeed become a critical one; and it would seem that the sun of his prosperity has reached its meridian. All these circumstances therefore taken together determined the action of the Home Government in sacrificing the interests of this country in order to conciliate Manchester. The reason also why Lord Lytton rebuked the members of the British Indian Association,—a body of whom we are justly proud,—is now intelligible to us. The pressure of the Home Government on the one hand, and a regard for the interests of India on the other, coupled with the opposition of his own Councillors,—all this made his position so embarrassing that, for a moment, he quite forgot himself, just as a child would cry helplessly when troubled by fear or a patient wail under the pangs of disease. Had he had any independence of mind, he would have been able to maintain the dignity of his character. Instead of that, however, he has brought disgrace upon his office. For the first time now has India seen that the Governor-General is a puppet in the hands of the Home Government. Rather than be swayed by the caprice of the Ministry, Lord Northbrook resigned his office; and had Lord Lytton but followed this example of his predecessor, he could have maintained his greatness. That by reducing the revenue derived from the cotton duties by 20 lakhs of rupees Government has injured India for the purpose of conciliating Manchester is not questioned by any one outside that body. All India asserts this in one voice: the Indian Press repeats it; and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce have lately confirmed it with their authority. Not to speak of others, even the *Times*, that unflinching advocate of the Home Government, finds itself unable to support it in this matter. The agitation respecting these cotton duties has presented us with a new spectacle. On no other matter has the public opinion in India been so strong and unanimous. But the authority of Government has asserted itself with equal force in

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 20th, 1879.

utter disregard and defiance of public opinion. The spectacle has not depressed us : it is a comfort to find that the world has called injustice by no other name.

BHARAT MINIR,
May 20th, 1879.

5. The same paper thus comments on the recent speech of Mr. Bright at Birmingham :—In our last issue, we could only make a slight reference to this speech.

It is really a pleasure to read the picture of India drawn therein by Mr. Bright. Unfortunately for India, few of those who come out to this country are possessed of his liberal disposition. It is men like Bright, Gladstone, and Fawcett who, to the natives of India, appear to maintain the greatness of the British nation ; for the figure cut by many Englishmen while in India is such that few could, after they had been brought in contact with it, preserve their respect for the nation intact. India has long witnessed the nobility of Mr. Bright's disposition and his disinterested philanthropy. His efforts to benefit this country extend over a long series of years.

After giving some extracts from the speech, the Editor continues :—The eyes of England have at length been directed towards the miserable condition of India, where famines would seem to have become a standing evil. This scourge of Providence, joined to the depreciation in the value of silver, had already produced considerable misery which was aggravated by Lord Beaconsfield's preparations for the war with Afghanistan. It has been truly observed that his Government is imbecile at home and tyrannical abroad. For if it were not imbecile, why should the Indian revenues, at this time of financial difficulty, be reduced by twenty lakhs of rupees from fear of Manchester? Abroad, there is no public opinion. The policy of Lord Beaconsfield is also responsible for the Zulu and Afghan wars.

BHARAT MINIR.

6. After giving the substance of the provisions of the Bill to amend the Civil Procedure Code, the same paper observes that the sooner the measure is passed into law, the better. We are exceedingly glad to see that sections 13, 52, and 588 of the Code have been amended.

The Bill to amend the Civil Procedure Code.

BHARAT MINIR.

7. The deeds of Mr. Magrath, observes the same paper, have quite thrown those of Mr. Kirkwood into the shade. We have known no other Magistrate who was so given to despotism and error. The remarks made by the *Statesman* regarding his conduct in the case of Jetooolal are indeed correct. It behoves Sir Ashley Eden, who is ever known as an enemy of everything that is unjust and oppressive, to make an example of Mr. Magrath.

The case of Mr. Magrath.

SANJIVANI,
May 23rd, 1879.

8. The following observations are culled from the opening editorial in the *Sanjivani*, of the 23rd May, headed "Before whom shall we cry?"—A succession of calamities has quite ground down the people of India. They have become extremely impoverished. Those of Mymensingh, the wealthiest of all the districts in Eastern Bengal, have reached the lowest depths of poverty. High prices and the License tax have intensified the distress of the poor and the middle classes alike. We do not know whether there ever was such widespread distress before. Certainly the existence of a state of things such as this is not desirable under the British Government. The people of this country, lacking, as they do, capital, agricultural and commercial enterprise, power of combination and unity, have no other resource but to cry before the Government for the removal of their grievances. Unfortunately for them, however, the rulers are now busy with frontier affairs, a Zulu war and the interests of Manchester ; and have no leisure to attend to the internal condition of the country and other similar trifling matters. They are pleased if only they can keep us in subjection ; and, for this purpose, they

Before whom shall we cry ?

maintain at a cost of half the revenues of this poor country, hundreds of thousands of troops. They have disarmed us, lest a brave, warlike, and disloyal people, as we are thought to be, should unite to subvert their rule. Still they have not been able to get rid of this fear, and consequently the expenditure on the army is gradually increasing; and it would seem as though they were wilfully deaf to our lamentations, that there might be no fear from us, poverty having made us quite weak and helpless. While Government is thus indifferent to our interests, its minister is a veritable Saturn who is leading us to ruin. So long as the finances are in the hands of this Saturn (Strachey) there is no hope. We are about to sink into the abyss through the wicked counsels of this person. He has landed our Government in bankruptcy and beggared us. In the midst of these sufferings, the Finance Minister is said to be contemplating the introduction of an income tax. What great sacrifice will be needed to deliver us from the hands of this malignant power, we cannot tell. We repeat the words of a contemporary, and ask Sir John Strachey to do us the favor of "leaving this country. We are prepared to raise a subscription to pay his salary for five years." Whilst writing this, we see Act IX suspended over our heads and tremble with fear. But this is only for a moment, for our misery is past endurance. We shall fear no longer; and while dying shall cry—"Death! what wilt thou alone do to me? Knowest thou not that a hundred deaths are in store for me."

9. Adverting to the statement made in Parliament that in the matter of the partial remission of the cotton duties this year, Lord Lytton has acted under instructions from the Home Government, the *Pratikár*, of the 23rd May, makes the following observations:—Whether in this matter Lord Lytton acted quite independently or under instructions from the ministers, does not make any difference to the unfortunate people of this country. No one, of course, would think of holding His Excellency responsible for the loss he has occasioned to the revenues; it is simply because the hardship of the people have increased that they cry, and it was simply because the British Indian Association feared that the loss of revenue caused by the remission of the cotton duties would have to be made good by the poverty-stricken people of India that they went to represent their grievances to the Viceroy. Had they not been troubled by any such fear, that body would not have done an act for which they only reaped abuse. We can, of course, understand that Lord Lytton has acted under orders from home; for it is easy to see that a measure which was adopted in opposition to the views of the majority of the Council must have had some such support. But even if the act were regarded as one carried out at the instance of the Home Government, it could not still be held that Lord Lytton was opposed to it; for in that case, he might at least express his sympathy with the views of the British Indian Association. It is, however, now idle to seek to discover the origin of this movement; we await the decision of the question by Parliament.

PRATIKAR,
May 23rd, 1879.

10. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 24th May, contains an editorial headed "Government." The Editor begins by observing that the people of this country have long been aware of the fact that the work of Government can never be carried on by mere force. Englishmen of a former period who came to India conquered the hearts of the people by their liberality and sincere and generous disposition. The more influential Englishmen of those times loved their native servants, helped them in their difficulties, and regarded them as members of their own families. All this, however, has now changed. Few Englishmen of the olden type are

Intercourse between Natives and Europeans.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
May 24th, 1879.

seen at the present time. Bengalees do not much seem to be in favor. There is altogether a want of sympathy and kindness in their treatment of the people. The result of this is seen in the growing estrangement between the two races. The Editor concludes by exhorting Englishmen to be more generous and sympathetic in their behaviour towards the natives of this country.

HINDU HITAISHINI,
May 24th, 1879.

11. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 24th May, seems to think that providence has become adverse to this country. Everywhere the cry is for rain; the prospects of the crops are gloomy; all classes of the people are filled with anxiety and gloomy forebodings regarding the future. This state of things has lasted since 1872, but with each succeeding year, the people have been more and more impoverished. The mahajuns, as a class, have become insolvent. The middle classes are the first to suffer from high prices, while the zemindars, being unable to realize the rents from an impecunious tenantry, are obliged to borrow in order that they may be able to pay the Government revenue. The License tax has intensified the distress of the people. The Exchequer labors under a deficit, in spite of the different taxes imposed. While Government is anxious to make reductions of expenditure and is exerting itself in this behalf, with strange inconsistency, a new palace is being built at Simla at an immense cost for the accommodation of the Viceroy. This latter work is certainly very inopportune, considering the state of the people at the present time. In view of the calamities of famine, &c., in future, Government should now be fully on its guard. The Afghan war is likely to impose fresh burdens upon this country. Affairs in Burmah also are assuming a threatening aspect; while we tremble to think that India may be made to suffer in consequence of the Zulu war and the rising difficulties in Egypt. The writer concludes by beseeching Government to put an end to hostilities, whether in Burmah, Afghanistan, Zululand, or Egypt, and save India from the horrors of recurring famines.

HINDU HITAISHINI.

12. The same paper wonders how Lord Lytton could, at the instance of Manchester and Sir John Strachey, bring himself to repeal the cotton duties, when but three years ago he expressed himself so strongly in favor of their retention. It is not too late to mend; and His Excellency should, considering his promise, rectify his recent action respecting these duties. The overriding of the views of the Council in this matter, although it was competent in him, was not still justifiable, as by the repeal of the cotton duties, India has rather been injured than benefited; for it is likely that the loss to the revenue caused by this measure will have to be made good by a new tax. The only gainer is Manchester. Nor is it easy to recoup the Exchequer for the loss of this revenue by a reduction of expenditure, for a reduction of expenditure always means impaired efficiency in some branch of the public service and a certain amount of hardship to those affected by it. In conclusion, His Excellency is asked to revise his decision in this matter with the aid of his Council.

The Cotton duties and Lord Lytton.

SADHARANI,
May 25th, 1879.

13. The *Sádháraní*, of the 25th May, remarks that, if Government is really desirous to appoint natives to superior offices under the State, let it afford equal facilities to both natives and Europeans. The former are willing to take their chance in fair competition. The present limit of age for candidates for the Indian Civil Service, a limit which has the effect of almost excluding the natives, should be raised to 25 years. The system of nomination, which is sometimes spoken of, is liable to much abuse.

High appointments for natives.

14. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 25th May, writes as follows in an article on the License Tax:—The resources of India have been well-nigh exhausted. This

The License Tax.

milch cow, has been milked dry. Foreign merchants have drained her of wealth for the last 22 years; prices have risen four times what they were before this period. Famines and other natural calamities have caused exceeding hardship to the people, which has been aggravated by taxation. There must, of course, be public expenditure, but to make the people pay for extravagant expenditure is unjust. The Road Cess and the Public Works Cess have been imposed but they do not afford any commensurate advantage. The License tax is, however, felt as very oppressive at this time of high prices. The mode of assessment, the exorbitant fines, and the oppressions practised by the circle officers and assessors in connection with this impost have caused extreme hardship to the people. It behoves the authorities to enquire.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 25th, 1879.

15. In commenting upon the case of Mr. Magrath, the same paper sarcastically observes, that in granting him furlough, Government has not been guilty of any new

The case of Mr. Magrath.

offence. Had its action been marked by partiality, Mr. Magrath's doings in the case of Jetoo Lal would not have been so severely commented upon in appeal. As for his being permitted quietly to go on furlough, it is a virtue and not a fault on the part of Government: it shows that they love their country. We, however, cannot tell whether Mr. Magrath, had he remained in India, would not have been made a Commissioner.

DACCA PRAKASH.

16. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 26th May, observes, in reference to the dacoities in Puna, that it has become exceedingly necessary that Government should put

Dacoities in Puna.

down these excesses with promptitude before the example of the malcontents has had time to influence others in remote provinces. Its duty, however, will not have been done only when these acts of lawlessness are suppressed; the cause of the discontent ought to be found out. The Editor does not believe that the dacoities are but the precursor of a general insurrection; but is of opinion that they have been occasioned by poverty and distress, aggravated by the ryotwari settlement of land, which obtains in the Bombay Presidency, and by the Imperial License Tax.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 26th, 1879.

17. The *Sahachar*, of the 26th May, dwells upon the gloomy prospects of the crops, insufficient rainfall, high price, increase of crime, and the poverty of the country, and ascribes the dacoities in Puna to the distress which prevails among

The condition of the country.

the people. For some years past, they have suffered from famines. In the midst of this, Sir John Strachey has arisen like a comet on the political horizon, and is causing evil in different ways. He has thrown obstacles in the way of obtaining revenues by fair means, while anxious to raise them by objectionable methods. For the purpose of gratifying the merchants of Manchester, he has deprived this poor country of a large revenue. In the name of a famine fund, he has sucked dry the life-blood of the people by a license tax, and has ended by expending it for the purposes of the Afghan war. For this, the ministry in England and Sir John Strachey are chiefly responsible. Such injustice would never have been done if Lord Lytton had acted independently. It is not easy to improve the state of the Exchequer. Possibly there will be an income tax next year to complete the miseries of the people. We ask Government to attend to this matter.

SAHACHAR,
May 26th, 1879.

18. According to the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 27th May, the difference between the excesses of Nihilists in Russia, and those of the dacoits in Puna is this,

Dacoities in Puna.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 27th, 1879.

that whereas the former commit acts of lawlessness from a desire to obtain political liberty, the action of the latter has been caused through poverty and distress. Government, however, is determined to put them down at whatever cost. It is really to be wondered at that instead of seeking to remove the cause which has led them to commit these excesses, the authorities would rather punish them by throwing them into prison. Government, it would seem, wishes to be feared rather than loved by the people; and while undertaking to support the wicked in prison, remains indifferent to the sufferings of the people so long as they do not break the law.

EDUCATION.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 26th, 1879.

19. Adverting to this scholarship, and the examination required to be passed by the candidates, the *Navavi-bhakar*, of the 26th May, remarks that the University would do well to reduce its amount, and apply the balance to some purpose which would lead to the attainment of the object of the founder. It is certainly desirable that such a magnificent donation should be applied to some great purpose. The candidates, however, who have succeeded in obtaining this scholarship since it was founded, have not, so far as we know, produced any literary work, or undertaken any tour to Europe or America for the purpose of furthering their education, which might justify the bestowal of such a valuable prize. As it is, the prize-money may be squandered or spent on objects which have not the least connection with literature or science. The Roychand scholarship should be something like the Fellowships attached to the Colleges in England. The writer suggests that a reward of Rs. 500 will be enough for the successful candidate; mere success in such a difficult examination will be looked upon as a prize which will attract many competitors. The balance should be made payable on condition that the successful candidate undertakes a tour to Europe and America for the furtherance of his education, or produces some meritorious literary work. The whole subject is one which should receive the attention of the authorities of the University.

LOCAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 20th, 1879.

20. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 20th May, speaks of the hardheartedness of the License Tax Assessors. Even the houses of those who have once paid the tax are now being attached for enforcing payment of the same tax. And this has been the case not with one or two individuals, but with so many that a list of their names would require more space than this paper could command. Tārak Chandra Basu alone has been caught; but there are many others besides him who are said to have done what he did and what he has been dismissed for. A little enquiry is all that is needed for the discovery of the offenders. The poverty of the people in these parts, and the distress occasioned by high prices, have been aggravated by the oppressions committed in connection with the License tax. The writer is exceedingly grateful to Mr. Alexander, the Collector, for his exertions to obtain exemption of the poor from this oppressive impost.

SANJIVANI,
May 23rd, 1879.

21. The *Sanjivani*, of the 23rd May, another Mymensingh paper, makes similar observations on the subject; and a correspondent narrates a case in which a poor agriculturist of the village of Chukitalá, who had been assessed Rs. 5, and had been a defaulter, was fined three times the amount. When the peon appeared to ask for payment, the poor man had been summoned before the zemindar and severely rebuked for arrears of rent. All this

proved too much for him. He began to tremble with fear, and then went to his house, where he died within two or three hours.

22. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 24th May, dwells on the existence of severe distress among the poor in many places in the Dacca district. Many are on the point of starvation in Manikgunj and adjacent localities. The condition of the villages around Dacca is truly miserable. In most of them food-grains are not procurable.

Distress in Dacca.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
May 24th, 1879.

23. A correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of the 26th May, complains of the hardship occasioned to the poor by the inequitable assessments with the license tax made in Uthuli Shajadpore. Even the poorest were assessed at Rs. 2. They appealed, but the appeal cost them about six times the amount.

The License Tax in Uthuli Shajadpore.

SAHACHAR,
May 26th, 1879.

MISCELLANEOUS.

24. The *Sádháraní*, of the 25th May, attributes the occurrence of the dacoities in Puna to distress. In the districts of Nuddea and Burdwan also dacoities are said to be taking place. Here, of course, the people being weak, there is none of that violence which marks the action of the lawless in Puna. The distress, however, is severe, and prices are ruling very high. The people are really poor; and the assertions of Sir Ashley Eden, the *Hindu Patriot*, and others notwithstanding, their condition, even of the peasantry of Eastern Bengal, has not improved in the least.

The distress among the people.

SADHARANI,
May 25th, 1879.

25. The *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 26th May, contains a lengthy article headed—"A great danger apprehended." The Editor dwells on the present impoverished condition of the people, the distress occasioned by high prices, and the inequitable assessments with the license tax. Much discontent prevails in consequence; it has also in some places, as in the Bombay Presidency, found expression in the occurrence of dacoities. A consideration of these circumstances naturally fills the mind with gloomy forebodings regarding the future. Government is besought to reduce public expenditure, restrict the exportation of food-grains, put down the dacoits in Bombay, and take measures for the improvement of the condition of the people.

The out-look.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
May 26th, 1879.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 31st May 1879.

